

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-03 NSC-07 NSCE-00 PM-03 L-02

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 EB-03 COME-00 INT-01

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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9733

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 0812

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EIND, EMIN, PFOR, GY, XL

SUBJECT: CARIBBEAN JOINT VENTURE ALUMINUM SMELTER

REF: (A) USUN 1794 (B) PORT OF SPAIN 1127

1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS AND GUYANA BAUXITE COMPANY (GUYBAU) OFFICIALS HAVE MADE NO MENTION OF MARKETING CONSORTIUM ABOUT WHICH TRINIDAD PM WILLIAMS REMARKED (REF A). GOG MINISTER OF ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES HUBERT JACK RETURNED FROM TRINIDAD MAY 10, AFTER DISCUSSIONS WITH GOTT MIN OF MINES AND PETROLEUM, AND MIN TRADE AND INDUSTRY ABOUT PROPOSED JOINT VENTURE ALUMINUM SMELTER USING GUYANA ALUMINA, AS REPORTED REF B.

2. IN TALK THIS WEEK WITH AMBASSADOR DURING VISIT TO LINDEN, GUYBAU'S

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER HASSLYN PARRIS, WHO ACCOMPANIED JACK TO
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TRINIDAD, NOTED THAT GUYANA MADE CLEAR A SMELTER FACILITY IN

TRINIDAD WITH GUYANESE INPUT, WOULD NOT PRECLUDE GUYANA'S DEVELOPMENT OF ITS OWN SMELTER ONCE HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER IS AVAILABLE. NO INDICATION FROM PARRIS OR ELSEWHERE THAT YUGOSLAVS INVOLVED IN SCHEME, ALTHOUGH HYDRO-POWER FEASIBILITY STUDY IN GUYANA HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT BY YUGOSLAV FIRM (ENERGOPROJECT). PRESS REPORTED THAT PROPOSED GOG-GOTT ALUMINA/SMELTER PROJECT HAS BACKING FROM QUOTE "EUROPEAN FINANCIAL COMPANY WHICH IS PREPARED TO PUT UP A SUBSTANTIAL PART OF THE CAPITAL FOR ALUMINA EXPANSION HERE AND THE SMELTER IN TRINIDAD UNQUOTE. THIS MAY BE YUGOSLAV ENTITY ALLUDED TO IN REF B.

2. COMMENT: EMBASSY VIEWS GOG-GOTT ALUMINUM SMELTER SCHEME, LEAVING OUT JAMAICA, AS POTENTIALLY DIVISIVE ISSUE UNLESS MARKETING ARRANGEMENT DISCUSSED IN REF A IS TIED IN WITH SMELTER DEAL. IT IS RATHER UNLIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT CARICOM PARTNERS HAVE ACHIEVED THIS DEGREE OF COORDINATION AND TRUST. IT WILL BE A ROCKY ROAD TO GUYANA-TRINIDAD COOPERATION ON SMELTER, LET ALONE, A WIDER CARICOM ARRANGEMENT. MOREOVER, ON QUESTION OF ALUMINUM MARKETING DEAL BETWEEN JAMAICA, TRINIDAD, AND SURINAM, THE LATTER IS ONLY PRODUCER OF ALUMINUM OF THE THREE AND ALREADY HAS ESTABLISHED MARKETS IN EUROPE. IF NEW SMELTER IS PROPOSED FOR TRINIDAD, WHY WOULD JAMAICA (AND NOT GUYANA) BE INCLUDED IN MARKETING CONSORTIUM? WE BELIEVE WILLIAMS' STATEMENT (REF A) IS CONFUSING, AND MAY REFLECT DEGREE OF UNCERTAINTY IN REGION ON HOW TO PROCEED MOST EFFICACIOUSLY WITH BAUXITE/ALUMINUM EXPLOITATION. KREBS

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